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Environment Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol | Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1562

**RE: Opposition to SB1148 and SB1149**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

As a resident who consistently votes, I write in **OPPOSITION to SB1148** (bear trophy hunting). I further write in **OPPOSITION to SB1149** (expansion of Sunday hunting).

Trophy hunting by its name and definition is a dishonorable activity which brings shame to the reputation of Connecticut and its citizens.

**The Committee should in fact be exploring sensible means to impact the debate over control of human-animal interaction, namely, regulations that would require securing of residential and business refuse during disposal. Simple rules that garbage containers be inaccessible could accomplish much.**

**The DEEP has, over many years, positioned itself not as an ally of its citizens, nor, as a steward of the state's environment, but little more than an arm of hunting advocacy groups, posing as a government agency.**

There are scientifically proven strategies that help reduce animal-bear interaction and keep bears wild and people safe.

Science—not hunting advocacy propaganda—also shows that hunting does NOT reduce human-bear conflicts or complaints. To suggest a recreational hunt as the solution to keep bears out of human backyards, as DEEP has been doing for the past 8 years, is reckless and an abuse of the public trust.

The concept that any living creature could be defined as “nuisance” is offensive to many CT citizens. It is shameful that DEEP supports that model to justify killing them and to satisfy its hunting advocacy constituency. The “nuisance wildlife” section of SB 1148 creates a loophole for hunting of bears and bobcats, with unacceptably vague language and subjective standards of recreational hunters.

The entirety of HB 1148 should be replaced with language offered by the CT Coalition to Protect Bears for HB5160, which contains real and proven effective solutions (e.g., a feeding ban, grant program to promote community-wide solutions). I further strongly believe that most CT citizens would readily support restrictions that would disallow DEEP from allowing orphaned cubs to die as a consequence of their irrational definitions. Such conduct by DEEP is inconsistent with the values of the Connecticut public, who desire peaceful coexistence per a recent large study comparing DEEP's values against that of the public it purports to serve.

I urge the Committee to reject both of these bills.

Thanks and regards,

